Review of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

101. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently, reviewed the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for increasing the participation of farmers and to make the scheme more beneficial and efficient; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per the provisions of the scheme, a review of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has already been started after one year of its implementation. Initiating this process, a Conference of State Ministers for Agriculture was convened at New Delhi on 14.9.2000. Certain issues such as coverage of perennial crops, sharing of financial liabilities, constitution of Corpus Fund, implementation of scheme at Gram Panchayat unit area of insurance, limiting the sum insured, flexibility in seasonality discipline etc. were discussed.

Developing medicinal and aromatic plants

102. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central scheme for developing medicinal and aromatic plants is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tribals of the State are participating in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the incentives being given to the tribals for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) A Central Scheme on Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants was initiated during the VIII Plan. The Scheme was approved for implementation during the Ninth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 14.50 crores. The Scheme was continued till the year 1999-2000 and with

effect from the year 2000-01 it was merged under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this Scheme assistance of Rs. 9.81 lakhs has been provided to NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad for production of quality planting material of aromatic plants, setting up of herbal gardens and nurseries for medicinal plants. Besides assistance to the tune of Rs. 12.83 lakh was provided to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for developing seed production-cum-demonstration plots and area expansion in farmers fields.

(c) and (d) The scheme envisages assistance for setting up of demonstration-cum-seed production plots @ Rs. 1500/- per plot of 0.05 ha. Besides, the assistance for area expansion is 25 per cent of cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 12,500/- per ha for a maximum of four ha per beneficiary. The assistance is available to all the farmers including tribals of Andhra Pradesh.

Availability of pure Basmati Rice

†103. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that pure basmati rice is rarely available;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cultivation of various varieties of pure basmati rice such as type-3 and Nagina-12 has now confined to campus of agricultural universities; and

(c) if so, the details of the action being taken by Government for cultivation of the same on large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Basmati rice particularly type-3 and Nagina-12 were popularly known as Basmati Dehradun and Safeda Punjab respectively. These fine

†. Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.